Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for providing traceability of mail pieces, comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of mail pieces;

providing a first identification code on each of said plurality of mail pieces, said first identification code corresponding to a source of the mail pieces;

creating a mailing statement for said plurality of mail pieces;

providing a second identification code on said mailing statement, said second identification code corresponding to said source of the mail pieces; and

submitting said plurality of mail pieces to a postal service facility.

2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

scanning said mailing statement to read said second identification code;

scanning at least a sampling of said plurality of mail pieces to read said first identification code; and

verifying that said first identification code corresponds to said second identification code.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first identification code is encrypted.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first identification code is embedded into a digital image or text.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first identification code is embedded into a watermark.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first identification code is embedded into paper fibers.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first identification code is embedded into invisible ink.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

capturing and recording an identity of an individual submitting said plurality of mail pieces.

9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of providing a first identification code on each of said plurality of mail pieces includes the step of passing each of said plurality of mail pieces through identification code producing equipment.

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first identification code is independent from a meter imprint.

11. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 2, further comprising the step of providing an alert indication when said first identification code does not correspond to said second identification code.

12. (Previously presented) A method for providing traceability of mail pieces, comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of mail pieces via mail production equipment;

providing an encrypted source identification code on each of the plurality of mail pieces via source identification code producing equipment;

scanning each of the plurality of mail pieces to read the encrypted source identification code;

verifying that the encrypted source identification code corresponds to a source of the mail pieces; and

creating a mailing statement for the plurality of mail pieces via mailing statement producing equipment, the mailing statement including a corresponding source identification code corresponding to the encrypted source identification code on each of the plurality of mail pieces.

13. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

submitting the plurality of mail pieces to a postal service facility;

scanning the mailing statement to read the corresponding source identification code;

scanning at least a sampling of the plurality of mail pieces to read the encrypted source identification code; and

verifying that the encrypted source identification code corresponds to the corresponding source identification code.

14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the encrypted source identification code is embedded into a digital image, a text, a watermark, paper fibers or invisible ink.

15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12, further comprising the step of capturing and recording the identity of an individual submitting the plurality of mail pieces.

16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the encrypted source identification code is independent from a meter imprint.

17. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of providing an alert indication when the encrypted source identification code does not correspond to the corresponding source identification code.

18. (Previously presented) A method for providing traceability of mail pieces, comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of mail pieces via mail production equipment;

submitting the plurality of mail pieces to a postal service facility;

capturing and storing the identity of an individual submitting the plurality of mail pieces;

providing an encrypted source identification code on each of the plurality of mail pieces via source identification code producing equipment; and

storing information produced by the source identification code producing equipment.

19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the encrypted source identification code is embedded into a digital image, a text, a watermark, paper fibers or invisible ink.

20. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the encrypted source identification code is independent from a meter imprint.